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particularly are at the top end of their class. And so it isn't a bill that's for...would be for everyone, which is the way the other bill could possibly read. The question was, well, you should run it through the school district. Well, if you're running a loan forgiveness program to recruit people into education, it needs to go through the teacher training institutions. It can't run through the school district unless the people are already employed there. This is a recruitment tool to bring people into the profession and to encourage them to work in the state and to encourage them, more precisely, into shortage areas. Senator Raikes said, well, there are federal programs. There are federal programs, but they are not as flexible, nor do they target areas as...that are as open as they are in this bill for Nebraska. Every year, we will determine, through our State Department of Education, what those shortage areas are, where they are subject-wise and population-wise and...through the criteria set up in the bill. And we have the flexibility then to encourage those teachers to be hired in those areas, and to encourage them to go take those subjects in the first place. And that's why the bill is as precise as it is, and it's as flexible as it is, because we want to recruit people to the profession. We can do that this year. We can do that now. You can vote on Senator Kristensen's bill next year, and pay the money to people coming from other institutions outside of the state who may be hired here. You can pay it to people who have a 2.0 grade point average. You can do other things. That's another bill on another day. Today, the bill before you is the one that has been through the process of the Legislature. Some people may not be happy that it was, but it did. That's the way it works around here. It passed significantly. And maybe some people weren't paying attention. I don't know. But it's the law of the state now, and we're just seeking to fund it. And it's been scrutinized by the Teacher Salary Task Force.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: It's been scrutinized by the 3-R Task Force. It had another hearing this year in the Appropriations Committee for the funding. And it's not a whole lot different than what we do in the health professions, and that has been working very